

## ISRAELI HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES WARNING ON SOY

Scientists, doctors and nutritionists who have warned that soy is not a health food and poses special risks to infants and children received support this week from the Israeli Health Ministry, which issued a health advisory recommending that soy foods be eaten only in moderation.

"The *Jerusalem Post* (July 20) reports that the Israeli Health Ministry strongly recommended that consumption of soy foods be limited for young children and adults and that soy formula be avoided altogether by infants," said Kaayla T. Daniel, PhD.

Dr Daniel noted that there are hundreds of studies linking soy foods and soy infant formula to digestive problems, thyroid dysfunction, ADD/ADHD, dementia, reproductive disorders and even cancer.

"The Israeli Ministry took this matter very seriously and based its advice upon the conclusions reached by a 13-member committee of nutritionists, oncologists, pediatricians and other specialists who spent more than a year examining the evidence. The committee concluded that the estrogen-like plant hormones in soy can cause adverse effects on the human body, including cancer promotion and reproduc-



tive problems. They strongly urged that consumption of soy foods be minimised until absolute safety has been proven.

"The Israeli Health Ministry's recommendations are in accord with those made by the United Kingdom's Chief Medical Officer and the British Dietetic Association, both of which have alerted pediatricians and parents to use soy infant formula only in unusual circumstances," said Dr Daniel.

(Source: *News release from Kaayla T. Daniel, PhD, CCN, July 26, 2005, <http://www.wholesoystory.com>; Jerusalem Post, July 20, 2005*)

## EPA UNIONS CALL FOR FLUORIDATION MORATORIUM

Eleven Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employee unions representing over 7,000 environmental and public health professionals of the Civil Service have called for a moratorium on drinking water fluoridation programs across the country, and have asked EPA management to recognise fluoride as posing a serious risk of causing cancer in people.

The unions acted following revelations of a cover-up of evidence from Harvard School of Dental Medicine, linking fluoridation with elevated risk of a fatal bone cancer in young boys.

The unions sent letters to key congressional committees, asking Congress to legislate a moratorium pending a review of all the science on the risks and benefits of fluoridation.

The letters cited the weight of evidence supporting the classification of fluoride as a likely human carcinogen; it includes other epidemiology results similar to those in the Harvard study, animal studies, and biological reasons why fluoride can reasonably be expected to cause the bone cancer—osteosarcoma—seen in young boys and test animals.

The letter to EPA administrator Stephen Johnson asked him to issue a public warning in the form of an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, setting the health-based drinking water standard for fluoride at zero, as it is for all known or probable human carcinogens, pending a recommendation from a National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council committee.

The unions also asked Congress and the EPA's enforcement office, or the Department of Justice, to look into reasons why the Harvard study director, Chester Douglass, failed to report the sevenfold increased risk seen in the work he oversaw, and instead wrote to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the federal agency that funded the Harvard study, saying there was no link between fluoridation and osteosarcoma.

Douglass sent the same negative report to the National Research Council committee studying possible changes in EPA's drinking water standards for fluoride.



"Yeah, I'm completely lost in the desert. The good news is...I landed a job."

The unions who signed the letters represent EPA employees from across the nation, including laboratory scientists, regulatory support scientists and other workers at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC. The unions' letter is online at webpage <http://nteu280.org/Issues/Fluoride/fluoridesummary.htm>.

(Source: *Fluoride Action Network*, August 25, 2005, via <http://i-newswire.com/pr43887.html>)

## PROFESSOR SIR ROY MEADOW DEREGISTERED IN UK

The UK General Medical Council (GMC) has struck off paediatrician Professor Sir Roy Meadow over the "misleading" evidence he gave in the Sally Clark case. This action came after the GMC announced it had found Meadow guilty of serious professional misconduct which was "fundamentally unacceptable".

Meadow had stood by his evidence, but admitted his use of statistics at Mrs Clark's 1999 trial was "insensitive". Mrs Clark was convicted of murdering her two sons and spent three years in prison, but was exonerated in 2003 after an appeal.

Frank Lockyer—Mrs Clark's father, who brought the case—broke down in tears as he welcomed the verdict.

"The GMC has applied the ultimate sanction to the doctor who played such a huge part in my daughter's conviction," he said. "Now perhaps we, as a family, can put the last seven years of hell behind us and move on."

Mrs Clark was eventually freed after it became apparent that another witness at her trial, pathologist Alan Williams, had failed to disclose key medical evidence.

The chair of the GMC panel considering Meadow's case said it was vital that the public had confidence in the experts brought before the court—and that is why Meadow had to be deregistered, rather than be given a lesser penalty.

Meadow gave evidence as an expert witness in the trials of parents accused of killing their children. As well as Sally Clark, the accused included: Angela Cannings, who served 18 months after being wrongly convicted of killing her two sons; Donna Anthony, who served six years after being wrongly convicted of killing her son and daughter; and Trupti Patel, cleared of killing three of her children.

[Editor's note: In 1977, Meadow came up with a profile which he called

"munchausen syndrome by proxy" (MSBP) and used this against parents in many child protection cases, despite the fact that the diagnosis was not scientifically based and was merely his own conjecture.

Unfortunately, the media have largely ignored evidence suggesting that adverse side effects of vaccinations may be responsible for the deaths of children whose parents are accused of MSBP or of causing shaken baby syndrome (SBS).]

(Source: *BBC News*, July 15, 2005, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4685511.stm>. Also see Michael Nott's "Justice out of Balance" in NEXUS 11/06, and Dr Viera Scheibner's "Vaccinations and the Dynamics of Critical Days" in this edition.)

## WIDESPREAD VOTING MACHINE FRAUD IN 2004 US ELECTION

New research compiled by Dr Dennis Loo with the University of Cal Poly Pomona now shows that extensive manipulation of non-paper-trail voting machines occurred in several states during the 2004 presidential election.

In 2004, Bush far exceeded the 85% of registered Florida Republican votes that he got in 2000, receiving more than 100% of the registered Republican votes in 47 out of 67 Florida counties, 200% of registered Republicans in 15 counties, and over 300% of registered Republicans in four counties.

Bush managed these remarkable outcomes despite the fact that his share of the

crossover votes by registered Democrats in Florida did not increase over 2000, and he lost ground among registered Independents, dropping 15 points.

We also know that Bush "won" Ohio by 51–48%, but statewide results were not matched by the court-supervised hand count of the 147,400 absentee and provisional ballots in which Kerry received 54.46% of the vote. In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, the number of recorded votes was more than 93,000 greater than the number of registered voters.

More importantly, national exit polls showed Kerry winning in 2004. However, it was only in precincts where there were no paper trails on the voting machines that the exit polls ended up being different from the final count.

According to Dr Steve Freeman, a statistician at the University of Pennsylvania, the odds are 250 million to one that the exit polls were wrong by chance. In fact, where the exit polls disagreed with the computerised outcomes, the results always favoured Bush—another statistical impossibility.

There is now strong statistical evidence of widespread voting machine manipulation occurring in US elections since 2000.

Coverage of the fraud has been reported in independent media and on various websites. The information is not secret. But it certainly seems to be a taboo subject for the US corporate media.

(Source: *CommonDreams.org*, August 13, 2005, <http://www.commondreams.org>)



## BIZARRE LIGHTNING STRIKE TO BE STUDIED

A National Weather Service expert in Phoenix, Arizona, will investigate a powerful lightning strike that "sounded like dynamite exploding", damaging 13 homes in Central Mesa recently.

"This is beyond the norm," meteorologist David Runyan said. "It's bizarre. It intrigues us. We will seek some means to understand it a little more."

The lightning bolt drawing all the attention caused extensive damage to a home in East Seventh Avenue as its charge sped to other structures through underground wiring and wet soil.

Local firefighters, who have seen the aftermath of other lightning strikes over the years, said they have never witnessed anything like the effects of the East Seventh Avenue strike.

The force's intense heat exploded underground wires including television cable near the home, erupted through the soil and spewed dirt and debris like volcanic ash against homes, trees and parked vehicles. Areas around brass doorknobs and locks were scorched.

Randall Cerveny, an assistant professor of meteorology at Arizona State University, indicated the area could have been hit by a "positive" strike, which is extremely rare and powerful.

Scientists say positive strikes deliver much more voltage than the negative bolts that occur 90 to 95 per cent of the time in storms across the country.

Positive strikes also tend to spread their

potent charge over a larger area.

But Ron Holle, a meteorologist who studies lightning for Global Atmospheric Inc. in Tucson, isn't convinced yet that the strike was positive. "It could have been a lightning flash with multiple return strokes," he said. "Between the strokes, there is a continuing current, and it doesn't stop. We have no idea why it happens." (Source: Arizona Republic, Aug 11, 2005)

## EARTH'S CORE ROTATES FASTER THAN ITS SURFACE

The core of the Earth is spinning faster than the planet's surface, according to a new study. The finding is based on analyses of earthquake pairs that occur at roughly the same spot on Earth but at different times. On seismic recording instruments, the earthquake signatures from waveform doublets, as they are called, look nearly identical.

When earthquakes strike, their seismic waves can travel through the planet and surface all over the globe.

The researchers analysed 18 sets of waveform doublets—some separated in time by up to 35 years—from earthquakes occurring off the coast of South America but which were recorded at seismic stations near Alaska.

They speculated that if the Earth's inner core is rotating faster than the rest of the planet, then shock waves from waveform doublets will enter and exit through different parts of the core, despite originating from roughly the same spot on the planet's surface.

By analysing the minute changes in travelling times and wave shapes for each doublet, the researchers concluded that the Earth's inner core is rotating faster than its surface by about 0.3–0.5 degrees per year.

The difference in rotation of the inner core could, in turn, affect the Earth's rotation and have implications for satellites, rockets and spaceships. (Source: Science, August 26, 2005)

## KEY LOCKERBIE BOMBING EVIDENCE WAS FAKED

A former Scottish police chief has given lawyers a signed statement claiming that key evidence in the Lockerbie bombing trial was fabricated.

The retired officer, of assistant chief constable rank or higher, has testified that the CIA planted the tiny fragment of circuit board crucial in convicting a Libyan for the 1989 mass murder of 270 people.

The police chief, whose identity has not yet been revealed, gave the statement to lawyers representing Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al-Megrahi, currently serving a life sentence in Greenock Prison. The evidence will form a crucial part of Al-Megrahi's attempt to have a retrial ordered by the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (SCCRC). The claims pose a potentially devastating threat to the reputation of the entire Scottish legal system.

The officer, who was a member of the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland, is supporting earlier claims by a former CIA agent that his bosses "wrote the script" to incriminate Libya.

The decision of a former Scottish police chief to back this claim could add enormous weight to what has previously been dismissed as a wild conspiracy theory. It has long been rumoured that the fragment was planted to implicate Libya for political reasons.

Following the trial, legal observers from around the world, including senior United Nations officials, expressed disquiet about the verdict and the conduct of the proceedings at Camp Zeist, Holland.

A source close to Al-Megrahi's defence team said: "Britain and the US were telling the world it was Libya, but in their private communications they acknowledged that they knew it was the Syrian-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

(Source: The Scotsman, August 28, 2005, <http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=1855852005>)



"Their schedule for infiltrating society seems to be moving along briskly."

## EUROPEAN UNION DIRECTIVES ON DATA RETENTION

The European Commission has finally produced its draft directive on data retention. According to the Commission, all fixed and mobile telephony traffic and location data from all private and legal persons should be stored for one year. Data about communications "using solely the internet protocol" should be stored for six months.

The Commission does not mention a full IP logfile from every ISP to trace every incoming and outgoing communication, but limits the demands to IP address, the computer internal MAC address, user name, email addresses and a logfile of every sent and received email.

The operators of mobile telephony surely won't be pleased with the proposal to store SMS traffic data for one year, nor with the obligation to keep detailed location data, including mapping cell IDs to the geographical location of the caller, for one year.

(Source: *European Digital Rights International [EDRI]*, no. 3.15, 27 July 2005, <http://www.edri.org/edriagram/number3.15/commission>)

## RENEWED SPECULATIONS ABOUT RFID IN EURO NOTES

The September edition of the German industry magazine *Die Bank* contains renewed speculation about the introduction of spy-chips in the Euro banknotes.

The article discusses three possible new measures against the counterfeiting of the notes: a new biological paint, a colour-switch foil, and the introduction of RFIDs (radio-frequency identification devices) on every note. The Hitachi Mu-chip, with its 0.18 micron size, is mentioned as a likely candidate, though the current price of approx. seven eurocents per chip might be prohibitive.

The article also mentions a new invention by Philips to integrate the chip in the paper completely. The chip would work by storing a 38-digit number that cannot be changed later, containing both the unique serial number and data about the origin of the note. The metal strip on every note could function as an antenna.

To function properly, all current notes (8.2 billion) would have to be replaced and every citizen should have access to readers. (Source: *EDRI*, no. 3.17, 24 August 2005, <http://www.edri.org/edriagram/number3.17/RFID>)

## PENTAGON DEVISING SCENARIOS FOR MARTIAL LAW IN USA

According to a report published on August 8th by the *Washington Post*, the Pentagon has developed its first-ever war plans for operations within the continental United States, in which terrorist attacks would be used as the justification for imposing martial law on cities, regions or the entire country.

The front-page article cites sources working at the headquarters of the military's Northern Command (Northcom) located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The plans themselves are classified, but "officers who drafted the plans" gave details to *Post* reporter Bradley Graham, who was recently given a tour of Northcom headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base. The article thus appears to be a deliberate leak conducted for the purpose of desensitising the American population to the prospect of military rule.

According to Graham: "[T]he new plans provide for what several senior officers acknowledged is the likelihood that the military will have to take charge in some situations, especially when dealing with mass-casualty attacks that could quickly overwhelm civilian resources".

The *Post* account declares: "The war plans represent a historic shift for the Pentagon, which has been reluctant to become involved in domestic operations and is legally constrained from engaging in law enforcement."

A total of 15 potential crisis scenarios are outlined, ranging from "low-end", which Graham describes as "relatively modest crowd-control missions", to "high-end", after as many as three simultaneous catastrophic mass-casualty events, such as a nuclear, biological or chemical weapons attack. In each case, the military would deploy a quick-reaction force of as many as 3,000 troops per attack—i.e., 9,000 total in the worst-case scenario. More troops could be made available as needed.

The *Post* quotes a statement by Admiral Timothy J. Keating, head of Northcom: "In my estimation, [in the event of] a biological, a chemical or a nuclear attack in any of the 50 states, the Department of Defense is best positioned to take the lead."

The Pentagon is acutely conscious of the potential political backlash as its role in future security operations becomes known.

Graham writes: "Military exercises code-named *Vital Archer*, which involve troops in lead roles, are shrouded in secrecy. By contrast, other homeland exercises featuring troops in supporting roles are widely publicized."

He adds: "When it comes to ground forces possibly taking a lead role in homeland operations, senior Northcom officers remain reluctant to discuss specifics. Keating said such situations, if they arise, *probably would be temporary*, with lead responsibility passing back to civilian authorities [emphasis added]."

The reality is that the military brass is intensely interested in monitoring political dissent because its domestic operations will be directed not against a relative handful of Islamic fundamentalist terrorists—who have not carried out a single operation inside the United States since September 11, 2001—but against the democratic rights of the American people.

The plans of Northcom have their origins not in the terrible events of 9/11, but in longstanding concerns in corporate America about the political stability of the United States. This is a society increasingly polarised between the fabulously wealthy elite at the top, and the vast majority of working people who face an increasingly difficult struggle to survive. The nightmare of the American ruling class is the emergence of a mass movement from below that challenges its political and economic domination.

As for the claims that these military plans are driven by genuine concern over the threat of terrorist attacks, these are belied by the actual conduct of the American ruling elite since 9/11. The Bush administration has done everything possible to suppress any investigation into the circumstances of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—most likely because its own negligence, possibly deliberate, would be exposed.

The anti-terrorism scare has a propaganda purpose: to manipulate the American people and induce the public to accept drastic inroads against democratic rights. As the Pentagon planning suggests, the American working class faces the danger of some form of military-police dictatorship in the United States.

(Source: *By Patrick Martin, World Socialist Web Site, via Asian Tribune, August 10, 2005, http://www.asiantribune.com/show\_article.php?id=262*)